MPLADS Funds for places of religious worship

2767. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the district administrations in certain States have allowed expenditure on works pertaining to places of religious worship out of MPLADS funds violating the guidelines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of such expenditure; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to utilize funds under MPLADS for development works only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The CAG in its report for the period 1993-94 to 1996-97 has pointed out that in a few cases work was taken up in religious places in violation of MPLADS Guidelines. The details of expenditure are maintained at the District level.

(c) The Guidelines on MPLADS stipulate that under MPLADS only developmental works leading to creation of durable assets should be taken up. This Ministry from time to time issues instructions to the District Collectors to take up only such works under MPLADS which are permissible under the Guidelines. The Members of Parliament have also been requested by this Ministry to recommend only those works which are allowed under the Guidelines.